

REMARKS

Applicant has studied the Final Office Action dated February 5, 2009. Claims 25-28 are pending. Claims 35-39 and 45-51 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 25 is the only independent claim. No new matter has been added and no issue is raised by this paper.

It is submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant graciously acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 25-28. To expedite the prosecution of the present application, claims 35-39 and 45-51 rejected in the Final Office Action dated February 5, 2009 have been canceled without prejudice.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 35-39, 45, 46, 50, and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata et al. ("Shibata" US 7,084,919) in view of Matsuyama (US 5,615,398). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With this paper, claims 35-39, 45, 46, 50, and 51 have been canceled without prejudice. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that the rejection is moot with respect to claims 35-39, 45, 46, 50, and 51 and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 47-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata and Matsuyama and in further view of Ueda (US 4,847,647). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With this paper, claims 47-49 have been canceled without prejudice. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that the rejection is moot with respect to claims 47-49 and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicant submits that the present Amendment places all pending claims of the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned agent at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 623-2221 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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